

Exhibit C

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES
REDISTRICTING PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 2, 2011
7:00 P.M. - 7:32 P.M.

CHAIRED BY:

DELEGATE CHRIS JONES

Other Members in Attendance:

Delegate John O'Bannon
Delegate Johnny Joannou
Delegate Rosalind Dance
Delegate D.W. Marshall
Delegate Don Merricks
Senator Mary Margaret Whipple
Senator Harry Blevins
Senator Roscoe Reynolds

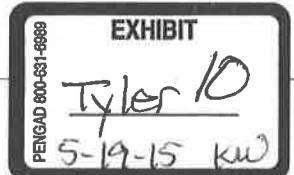
 ORIGINAL

CENTRAL VIRGINIA REPORTERS

P.O. BOX 12628

ROANOKE, VA 24027

(540) 380-5017



1 (7:00 p.m.)

2 PROCEEDINGS

3

4 DELEGATE JONES: I call the Joint Public
5 Hearing to order. My name is Chris Jones, and I
6 represent the 76th District in Suffolk and
7 Chesapeake.

8 Before I make my opening remarks, I have the
9 Members of the General Assembly that traveled here
10 by plane. This is our third public hearing today.
11 We've been in Harrisonburg, Shenandoah, and then we
12 went to Abingdon by way of Tennessee -- we couldn't
13 land in Virginia -- and we're finishing up here
14 this evening in Danville, and we thank you for
15 coming out. Mr. Blevins?

16 SENATOR BLEVINS: I'm Harry Blevins. I
17 represent the 14th Senate District. Can you hear
18 me?

19 AUDIENCE: No.

20 SENATOR BLEVINS: I'm Harry Blevins. I
21 represent the 14th Senate District, which is
22 primarily Chesapeake, with a small part of Virginia
23 Beach.

24 DELEGATE JOANNOU: My name is Johnny Joannou.

1 I represent the 79th District. It includes
2 portions of the Cities of Norfolk, Chesapeake,
3 Portsmouth, and Suffolk.

4 SENATOR WHIRPLE: I'm Mary Margaret Whipple
5 from Arlington. I'm in Senate District 31, which
6 represents most of Arlington, the City of Falls
7 Church, and the eastern part of Fairfax County.

8 DELEGATE DANCE: My name is Rosalind Dance. I
9 serve in the 63rd House District, which encompasses
10 the City of Petersburg, Dinwiddie County, and parts
11 of Chesterfield, Ettrick and Matoaca.

12 DELEGATE O'BANNON: Good evening. Thank you
13 all for coming out tonight. My name is John
14 O'Bannon. I'm on the Privileges and Elections
15 Committee. I represent Henrico County and two
16 precincts in the City of Richmond, and about 50
17 years ago I was up the road at Hargrove Military
18 Academy.

19 CHAIRMAN JONES: We also have in the audience
20 D.W. Marshall and Don Merricks. Thank you for
21 being such great hosts to us this afternoon, and
22 thank you for dinner as well.

23 Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues, and Engaged
24 Citizens, good evening. It is my pleasure tonight

1 to welcome you to the seventh of our eight public
2 hearings on redistricting plans and maps that have
3 been introduced in the Virginia House of Delegates
4 and the Senate of Virginia.

5 Tonight's public hearing is sponsored by the
6 Privileges and Election Committee of the House and
7 Senate meeting jointly. It underscores our belief
8 and our commitment in following an open and fair
9 process.

10 Let me be absolutely clear about our primary
11 purpose of these hearings: We went to listen to
12 what you have to say. We are here to listen to
13 your feedback and reaction to the maps that have
14 been posted on the website and the maps you have
15 before you this evening.

16 We're here to seek input from local elected
17 officials, from experts, from advocates and the
18 people of Virginia about the new boundaries in the
19 state legislative districts. We want to know
20 what's important to you in redistricting.

21 The General Assembly and the Governor are the
22 officials who submit to the voters at elections,
23 and therefore are directly accountable to the
24 public, and are responsible for drawing legislative

1 boundaries.

2 That mandate is clearly spelled out in the
3 Virginia Constitution, which each of us takes an
4 oath of office to uphold. It is one of the most
5 important duties we have as elected government
6 officials.

7 The time tested process of updating
8 legislative boundaries every ten years ensures that
9 every Virginian has a voice in redistricting.
10 Every Virginian is represented in the General
11 Assembly by a delegate and a senator.

12 Last fall the House and Senate P&E Committees
13 proactively sought to foster greater citizen
14 engagement and involvement through six public
15 hearings across Virginia.

16 This unprecedented action then underscores our
17 desire to encourage greater civic awareness and
18 facilitate more active participation by the public
19 in Virginia's 2011 redistricting process. That
20 commitment continues this evening.

21 For more information about redistricting, you
22 can go to our website under the Division of
23 Legislative Services and google that. In Virginia
24 you'll have a web page, and on the left banner you

1 will see a link called Redistricting. You'll see
2 the maps that have been proposed, and you can
3 actually go to your area of the state and see
4 exactly what's happening in your neighborhood.

5 The primary difference between last year's six
6 public hearings and this year's eight is that now
7 there are actually bills and maps before you.

8 There are three that have introduced so far;
9 one by myself, House Bill 5001, and two others
10 patroned in the Senate by Senator Janet Howell of
11 Northern Virginia and John Watkins of Richmond.
12 All were made available to the public on the
13 General Assembly's website this past Tuesday.

14 Redistricting plans and maps are actually
15 pieces of legislation. Like so many in the General
16 Assembly -- like so many the General Assembly
17 considers year in and year out. That means
18 amendments in committee or on the floor are likely,
19 as is normal in the give and take of the
20 legislative process.

21 Both the House and the Senate introduced
22 redistricting plans to draw districts of equal
23 population as nearly as practicable, in accordance
24 with the Constitution and the principle of one

1 person and one vote.

2 The House plan deviates from the ideal of
3 district size of about 80,000, plus or minus 1
4 percent. The House -- Senate plan deviates from
5 its ideal district size of about 200,000, by only
6 plus or minus 2 percent. The plan by Senator
7 Watkins is plus/minus .5 percent.

8 Either of these House and Senate plans also
9 maintain other traditional redistricting
10 principles, such as compactness, contiguity,
11 communities of interest, and political subdivision
12 boundaries, in full compliance with the Voting
13 Rights Act and all other applicable federal and
14 state laws, as well as the court decisions applying
15 them.

16. There are several logistical requests to
17. ensure a smooth and as efficient process as may be
18. possible. In order to respect the time of everyone
19. who is here tonight to provide input, I'd ask each
20. of you who speak to keep your comments to four,
21. five minutes tops, as a courtesy to others.

22. Also, please do not -- try not to repeat what
23. others have already said, so we may accommodate as
24. many speakers as possible. I've asked staff to

1 keep a timer, which I don't think we'll need,
2 previously have not been keeping it.

3 Also because we want to maximize participation
4 by the citizens who are here, we're here to listen
5 to you and to not answer your questions directly.

6 Again, this will be a process and you stand
7 where you are. If you would like, you might want
8 to talk louder. Some of us who don't hear quite as
9 well as we used to, me included, that would be very
10 helpful.

11 I have a signup sheet. And Senator Reynolds,
12 I believe -- Well, he's trying to hide. He's
13 sitting kind of low there in the back. (Laughter)
14 Thanks for joining us. Was it the traffic that got
15 you?

16 SENATOR REYNOLDS: I went to Bill's place.

17 CHAIRMAN JONES: We did too. (Laughter)

18 Our first speaker this evening is Mr. James
19 Snead. Mr. Snead?

20 MR. SNEAD: Yeah. I represent the
21 Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors. I
22 represent the Dan River District. If you just
23 leave here and go 15 east, you'll be in my district
24 in just a few minutes.

1 I've been looking at this for a number of
2 weeks on the log, and I have nothing against
3 Senator Roscoe Reynolds, first of all; but the fact
4 is this redistricting we're doing is splitting my
5 district that I represent. I have one polling
6 place in another district and two polling places in
7 another district.

8 A little bit of confusion. People in my
9 district have been contacting me quite a bit about
10 how are we going to go about voting for this? Even
11 though we'll still, according to the bill here,
12 we'll still be voting on the 14th and the 16th,
13 which is Mr. Merricks and which we are very
14 familiar about and want to keep our delegates in
15 Pittsylvania County as much as possible.

16 The Senate bill, it's very confusing. It
17 splits the City of Danville, which in turn splits
18 my district. That's the one that's confusing to my
19 constituents in my district on the voting.

20 Like I said, it's very confusing for them.
21 They don't know or understand. Roscoe Reynolds
22 will be in the 20th, from what I understand, and
23 Senator Ruff is the other part, which I would live
24 in Senator Ruff's district, but my two precincts,

1 voting precincts would be in another. Do you see
2 what I'm saying?

3 So it's a little bit confusing. I don't know
4 who's drawn the lines, but I know you're trying to
5 work it out as best you possibly can, but it's
6 drawn a lot of confusion by not having Pittsylvania
7 County wholly in one particular Senate race, the
8 whole county. It would help, I think, the whole
9 county.

10 I think we have another one here from the
11 Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors, and he
12 may elaborate on that also; but it will be a little
13 less confusing.

14 That's the only draw back that I see that I've
15 been looking at, is particularly for my district.
16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN JONES: Next we have Kurt Feigel? I
18 apologize.

19 MR. FEIGEL: Did you say Feigel?

20 CHAIRMAN JONES: Is that a G or a Y?

21 MR. FEIGEL: Sorry. I went to public school.
22 (Laughter)

23 CHAIRMAN JONES: My writing is terrible. I
24 thought it was a Y too.

1 MR. FEIGEL: 24502, is that the area?

2 CHAIRMAN JONES: That's what I have. Do you
3 want to see?

4 MR. FEIGEL: Thank you. My name is Kurt
5 Feigel. I'm a member of the Tea Party, and I came
6 down here with one of our other members. Just
7 wanted to see kind of an example of what was going
8 on.

9 I looked over it a little bit. The concerns I
10 have when I looked at it from a split of, split
11 precincts is really the big one that I see. You
12 know, you look at some of these other things,
13 they're shifted around.

14 Well, the 19th Senate District is pretty much,
15 I think the numbers are 67 percent Republican. And
16 so it's really shifted the balance of power
17 towards, towards conservatives in that area. Hey,
18 I'm a conservative, that's great; but what about
19 the other people who basically have no
20 representation in their eyes now?

21 There's a huge chunk of people there, some
22 30-some percent that are not going to have the
23 representation I think that they really feel they
24 would deserve.

1 And some of the other areas I've heard
2 complaints on from people I know within the Tea
3 Party are the Virginia Beach area where the
4 senators, I know in my case I'm actually going to
5 lose a senator. And I mean I currently have Steve
6 Newman. I understand that's going to change.

7 And so I just think that when we look at this
8 and look at the idea of gerrymandering, I see, I
9 see a lot of interesting direction here.

10 We've got tiny little slivers that go so that
11 we can then reach up into other areas, and that's
12 not something I think that is when we talk about
13 common interest, I don't think some of these areas
14 really have common interests. They don't. Some of
15 them are rural and farming, and then you've got
16 huge chunks of city next to them.

17 So that was, that's all I have to say.

18 CHAIRMAN JONES: Next we have Charlie
19 Ferguson.

20 MR. FERGUSON: No, I'm passing.

21 CHAIRMAN JONES: You'll pass, okay. We have
22 Fred Shanks. Good evening.

23 MR. SHANKS: Good evening. Thank you all for
24 coming to Danville. Welcome to Danville. I'm a

1 member of the Danville City Council. I'm a member
2 of the Danville Pittsylvania County Regional
3 Industrial Facilities Authority, the Danville
4 Pittsylvania County Metropolitan Planning
5 Organization, and the Danville Utilities
6 Commission, which serves a large portion of
7 Pittsylvania County.

8 I'm here because I have concerns about the
9 Senate map as it's drawn, in particular the 19th
10 District, which is the district we are currently
11 in. And we're concerned or I'm concerned about the
12 lines that have been created to create the 20th and
13 the 15th districts.

14 The lines, the purpose of the lines as they're
15 created are obvious and their intent is obvious,
16 and that is not in the best interest of communities
17 of interest and compactness.

18 I don't see how anyone can look at that map as
19 it's drawn -- and I'm not referring to the Watkins
20 map -- the map as it's drawn and see anything but
21 lines drawn to pick up different areas for a
22 particular reason, with not the interest of the
23 community in mind.

24 My only comments after that are that it is

1 important to us in Southside Virginia and this
2 district that Danville remain whole and that
3 Pittsylvania County remain whole.

4 In my opinion, they both should remain
5 together, because we are an example of how
6 communities work together to develop a plan for the
7 region. And to split this region would be, would
8 be a terrible thing to do.

9 So I ask you to look at our Pittsylvania
10 County and Danville Regional cooperation, not try
11 to split that up. Look at the lines, make sure
12 they make sense, and they don't have the political
13 purpose that's obvious right now. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you. Mr. Darriel
15 Burkett?

16 MR. BURNETT: Burnett. I'm Darryl Burnett. I
17 went to public schools, and I can't read the
18 pharmacist's writing. (Laughter)

19 First, I'm with the Danville Tea Party. Take
20 the banner away, we're a bunch of conservative
21 people; but let me state this: I am apparently
22 amazed at the amount of work involved to produce
23 this plan, we'll call it.

24 I commend the effort of those that worked on

1 it. It's apparently indefeasible -- indefeatable
2 (sic) work ethic. However, it's unfortunate; it
3 strikes me as being self serving.

I am amazed also that this was published as a
viable answer for redistricting, when the real
reason is so blatantly obvious, right down to the
finite cutting of precincts, 12 right here in
Pittsylvania County. That still leaves the State
of Virginia.

10 It strikes me as an effort of intent for 22
11 Virginia senators to control the destiny of nearly
12 eight million Virginia citizens. The elected
13 officials have been put on notice for some time
14 now, and the electorate is not as dumb as John
15 Curry thinks.

16 Whether they're in Danville, Pittsylvania
17 County, Richmond, Washington, DC, this product is
18 exemplary of the driving force behind people, their
19 involvement to get involved, the desire to be
20 educated -- and the people are. They're getting
21 educated.

22 This endeavor, you stretch the limits of
23 contiguous. By definition you're there. As for
24 logic, common sense, any thought of cost

1 consciousness; there's a complete void. This is an
2 expensive proposal.

3 This is a tool the people in the Commonwealth
4 of Virginia established so as to get fair and
5 equitable representation throughout this region.
6 It is not to be a shackle for the Virginia Senate
7 at the cost and the behest of those in the northern
8 part of the state.

9 If this is, and I think it is, a power play, I
10 urge you to go back to Richmond. You can redeem
11 yourself. You can go back to Richmond, go back to
12 work, get it fair, get it equitable, present it to
13 the people when it's right. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you. All right, did
15 anyone else? I believe, Mr. Lancet, you have time
16 to speak. I do have a George Stanhope. Yes, sir?
17 Good evening.

18 MR. STANHOPE: Yes. I just wanted to
19 reiterate some of what all of these other people
20 have said, and that is I think this is an
21 abomination.

22 There is no reason why Pittsylvania County and
23 Danville aren't large enough, with maybe a little
24 addition, if necessary. And these lines look

1 almost like somebody took and tried to adjust or
2 gerrymander things to come up to exactly what they
3 were looking for.

4 I spent some time in Massachusetts, where the
5 word "gerrymander" came up from, and this looks a
6 lot like what they did up there with Cohasset and
7 areas like that to make a particular voting
8 district. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you. Anyone else
10 wishing to speak in the audience? Yes, sir,
11 please.

12 MR. FRANKEN: All right. My name is Fred
13 Franken. Can you hear me?

14 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yes, sir, I can.

15 MR. FRANKEN: I'm incensed with the work out
16 of Richmond, purely incensed. Anyone can look at
17 lines and with the numbers you're working with
18 shift them out or in, or a little bit over and
19 back; but when you start cutting communities, it
20 just doesn't make sense. It makes for stupidity.

21 You're cutting Danville. You're cutting the
22 little community of Ringgold. You're cutting the
23 little community of Kentuck. They're nice
24 communities out there, and you've squiggled the

1 lines to cut those little communities. I don't
2 think the state guide says to do that.

3 So remove stupidity from the operation.

4 Remove criminal politics from the operation and get
5 on with the work of the people, for pity's sakes.

6 That's the reason we're out there on the battle
7 field, so you folks can play around with crap like
8 that. Get it right, or we'll sue and litigate and
9 get some folks to do some technical study to
10 balance the lines.

11 I agree directly with the sentiment we've
12 heard from some of the gentlemen here, and I'm very
13 upset with that. Very upset. It is giving me
14 anger to get on the street and do a hell of a lot
15 of volunteering, I'll tell you that.

16 And I appreciate you taking my comments.

17 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yes, sir, thank you very much
18 for coming out. Anyone else wishing to speak?

19 MR. BELLINGER: Yes, sir, please. My name's
20 Nate Bellinger. I'm with the local chapter of
21 Virginia Organizing. I just wanted to voice my
22 support for the Bipartisan Advisory Commission
23 findings. There are other options out there.

24 MR. FRANKEN: He's an ACORN worker.

1 MR. BELLINGER: No. That is absolutely not
2 true.

3 CHAIRMAN JONES: There's no debate.

4 MR. BELLINGER: But there is a Bipartisan
5 Advisory Commission appointed by the Governor that
6 has studied this subject without gerrymandering.
7 It's appointed by the Republican governor. It
8 doesn't take into account the Republican/Democrat
9 gain, but instead they're actually looking at ways
10 that we can keep communities together and find a
11 way that isn't as politicized.

12 So I'd just like to say that I wish the
13 commission had some teeth to it. Instead of just
14 advising, I wish they could actually have some,
15 have a little bit of a mandate behind it, instead
16 of going through the legislative process and being
17 tilted around like that. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN JONES: Anyone else wishing to speak?
19 Yes, sir, please.

20 MR. DANIEL: Good evening. My name is Chris
21 Daniel. I'm a citizen of the City of Danville.
22 I'm personally very pleased at the prospect of
23 being represented in the state senate by Senator
24 Roscoe Reynolds. I personally would be very

1 pleased to have state Senator Roscoe Reynolds as my
2 member of the state senate.

3 It's interesting that there's only one plan
4 offered from the House of Delegates, and all the
5 charges about gerrymandering, which may or may not
6 be true, of the two competing Senate plans, one
7 perhaps more so than the other one, but the same
8 can certainly be said, and I apologize, but I
9 believe it's your plan, Delegate Jones.

10 It's harder to see the gerrymandering, when
11 you're looking at a hundred sets of lines on a map
12 of the Commonwealth of Virginia on an 8 1/2 x 11
13 sheet of paper, but I know from previous experience
14 ten years ago and again in 2011 that the
15 gerrymandering occurs.

16 In 2001, the gerrymandering enabled the House
17 of Delegates, the Republican Party membership in
18 the House of Delegates to place three outstanding
19 members of the Democratic Party in the 10th House
20 District together. This time the same folks in
21 charge have managed to place that esteemed member
22 of the House of Delegates in with one of his
23 Republican colleagues.

24 So while we're looking at gerrymandering, if

1 it's true in the Senate plan, it's also true of the
2 House plan as well. I would champion, maybe a day
3 late and a dollar short, but I will join Mr.
4 Bellinger and suggest that perhaps moving in the
5 direction of looking at some sort of mandated
6 bipartisan effort would certainly avoid the
7 splitting of communities of interest. It would
8 certainly avoid many of the problems we see.

9 I was reminded recently that in 1981 we were
10 unable to reach a redistricting plan quickly
11 enough. I don't remember all the details, but
12 apparently there were state, Senate and House of
13 Delegate elections in 1981 and again in 1982. Oh
14 my gosh; there would be two sets of elections in
15 two years; but if we drew fair lines that were
16 equitable and represented all of the citizens, that
17 would be a worthwhile game. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you. Anyone else
19 wishing to speak? Yes, sir, please.

20 MR. WARREN: I don't even know Senator
21 Reynolds --

22 CHAIRMAN JONES: Your name, please?

23 MR. WARREN: Tom Warren.

24 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you.

1 MR. WARREN: I find that I can't even conceive
2 how you would split up a city of 48,000. I can
3 understand you people in Northern Virginia, where
4 you have such a population that you have to do it;
5 but not in Danville and Pittsylvania County.

9 You know, if, if this gentleman back here is,
10 is willing to have Roscoe Reynolds represent him in
11 Danville, he needs to figure out a lot of things.

12 We've got 17 polling districts in Danville.
13 How do you split that up? I can't believe that our
14 registrar is not here like screaming. You know,
15 how do you do that? That means in any given year
16 we're going to have two senate races, a delegate
17 race, and then the federal years God only knows
18 what we're going to wind up with, as far as
19 representation is concerned.

20 This does not in my opinion make any sense at
21 all. It has got to be done better.

22 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you. Yes, sir?

23 MR. TUCKER: My name is Bobby Tucker. And
24 forgive me; I'm kind of new at this, learning

1 process.

2 CHAIRMAN JONES: Okay.

3 MR. TUCKER: Although I do commend you for
4 your work, because from the way I see it, you
5 almost in a no win situation. So thank you for
6 listening first.

7 I do want to say being in a part of
8 Pittsylvania County that in the House of Delegates
9 being represented by the Honorable Charles
10 Poindexter, I would like to say with Pittsylvania
11 County being square miles probably the largest, one
12 of the largest counties in the state, we have
13 multiple districts no matter which plan comes up,
14 it seems.

15 While I do like the, the Watkins plan in the
16 Senate there, with our Board of Supervisors, House
17 of Delegates and Senate, we have an older
18 population, which I'm now moving into. It is very
19 confusing to some of the older people to get out
20 and vote, when they don't know really what district
21 they in, who they're voting for, until they get to
22 the polling places, quite honestly. I've heard
23 those comments.

24 I would ask that you do take into

1 consideration of trying to keep the counties and
2 districts, as best you can even in the Senate
3 districts and the House districts, any way we can
4 keep those lines as close as we can to each other
5 to, to help alleviate some of this confusion with
6 people voting, and hopefully that would create
7 voter turnout. And that's what we really want. We
8 want everybody to have a voice. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you. Anyone else
10 wishing to speak?

11 MR. HEDRICK: I want to speak, but not as a
12 member of the media, I'll speak as a citizen.

13 My name is Bruce Hedrick. I represent WMDV-TV
14 in Danville, and I'm speaking as a private citizen
15 on this.

16 If 1990 was bad and 2000 was an anomaly, I
17 hope that this understands that the Legislature and
18 the citizens realize this redistricting needs to
19 be done by a bipartisan process. The victor goes the
20 spoils is good when your party's in power, and I
21 hope that everybody knows Governor McDonnell set a
22 bipartisan redistricting. I think it's time for
23 that.

24 Now also, I also have dismay that tonight

1 while you're doing a great job, and I understand
2 you have to schedule as many meetings as possible
3 in all the different places; tonight's a Saturday
4 night at 7 p.m. in this area which has got so many
5 other activities going on, not to mention
6 Martinsville race weekend. We've got a lot of
7 people that would love to be here and tell you
8 what's going on, but unfortunately due to the
9 scheduling, this is the crowd that you get.

10 The Southside cannot be ignored. The
11 Southside cannot be ignored from Richmond, not from
12 Northern Virginia. We are here, we vote. We want
13 to hear from you. (Applause)

14 CHAIRMAN JONES: Anyone else wishing to speak?
15 Okay.

16 DELEGATE DANCE: Mr. Chairman, even though I
17 am a member of the Redistricting Committee, this is
18 the third public hearing we've had today; and I
19 feel compelled to speak as an African American,
20 because I represent quite a few.

21 In your opening statement, you mentioned the
22 fact that Virginia is under the Voting Rights Act
23 that went into place in 1965, which says minorities
24 must have an opportunity to select who they would

1 like to serve.

2 There are 12 current minority districts, and
3 what has happened in the last 10 years is that
4 there has been a major shift. Trending, we can't
5 tell people where they want to live. They move
6 according to their life-style, economics, or
7 whatever.

8 But right now we're required to have 12
9 minority districts, and our districts have
10 switched. They changed from like seven to more
11 than 12,000 people that have moved.

12 And so in order for this, whatever
13 redistricting plan we have to meet the test must be
14 reviewed by the Department of Justice, and
15 therefore there should show that we as minorities
16 have an opportunity to compete.

17 In the last month I've spent time with my
18 colleagues, and we've looked at the lines and we've
19 drafted a fair and equitable is what we're looking
20 at, and looking at how our areas have trended.

21 I can tell you that if we don't -- whatever
22 redistricting plan comes out, if we don't have at
23 least a 55 percent variance as far as minorities,
24 then we don't really stand much of a chance to be

1 able to live up to what the Department of Justice
2 says we have a right to have. And that also
3 impacts the whole State of Virginia, as far as how
4 things have to be shifted.

5 The numbers grew in Northern Virginia. So on
6 the borders facing North Carolina, you felt that in
7 the Southwest. We felt it in the Tidewater area.
8 Minorities had to move forward, and we're all
9 moving towards the North, okay, because that's
10 where the numbers are.

11 So in order to make this happen, it requires
12 some shifting, if you will. It's not a perfect
13 thing, but there is a mandate that those 12
14 minorities from the Senate and -- it's five
15 minority positions that have to be here.

16 So all that is in the mix, when we're trying
17 to develop the right fit for us. I respect the
18 bipartisan committee, and I'm also concerned about,
19 though, the community of interest, and the
20 community of interest says that we are African
21 Americans.

22 There is a population of Hispanics that have
23 come. In 1965, it was African Americans they're
24 referring to. I am an African American, and I

1 represent quite a few African Americans, and we are
2 expected to be able to obtain this.

3 So we're listening to all you say, and I tell
4 you, everything you say is important, and there
5 will be some amendments made as a result of what
6 you said today. I assure that's going to happen.
7 Don't have to beat us up; but it's important that
8 you understand and review it, if you need to, the
9 Voting Rights Act of 1965 and what it requires
10 Virginia to do.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've got a question.
12 Do these three plans that are being offered, do
13 they all meet that guideline? So they all do meet
14 that guideline. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN JONES: And you were speaking about
16 55 percent voting population?

17 DELEGATE DANCE: Yes, voting age, because you
18 know you can have a minority, but they can't vote.
19 That doesn't help you much, as far as being
20 competitive and being able to ensure that you're
21 representing. Good point, I appreciate it.

22 CHAIRMAN JONES: Another comment?

23 MR. FEIGEL: I have a question. What is the,
24 how does the equation work for -- I don't know;

1 providing equitable voting, or whatever you just
2 said? You have to have so many black people,
3 hispanics, whites?

4 DELEGATE DANCE: If you had enough -- If you
5 had an opportunity to go to the General Assembly's
6 website and look at legislative link, you can
7 actually look at the demographics and you can break
8 it down by each precinct, each block. It will tell
9 you how many African Americans live there, how many
10 new Americans, asians, hispanics, and the whole
11 population from that area.

12 So as you cobble together to make sure that
13 there are 12 minority House districts and five
14 minority Senate districts, that's got to be in the
15 mix, and that has to impact what they have to do to
16 make sure everybody is called to be as responsible
17 as possible but still address that mandate. Any
18 plan that we have must go to the Department of
19 Justice first.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This block, is this
21 like a majority/minority --

22 CHAIRMAN JONES: We're not going to, we're not
23 going to do question and answer. She was making a
24 statement, so if you'd like to make a statement,

1 that will be fine.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't know how to
3 make that, make it a statement, if I'm looking for
4 an answer.

5 CHAIRMAN JONES: Anyone else wishing to speak
6 this evening? (No response)

7 If not, I want to thank you for coming out
8 today. This is a very large crowd. We had about,
9 we had a couple of hundred at Hampton Roads on
10 Thursday. We had a small crowd this morning at the
11 first one. We had a larger crowd this afternoon.
12 This is the largest crowd.

13 DELEGATE O'BANNON: You all are the best of
14 the day. (Laughter)

15 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you for coming out.

16
17 (7:32 p.m.)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

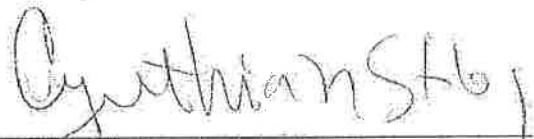
3 COUNTY OF FRANKLIN

4 I, Cynthia N. Stiles, Notary Public in and for the
5 Commonwealth of Virginia, at Large, do hereby certify that
6 the foregoing proceedings were by me reduced to machine
7 shorthand in the presence of the named participants,
8 afterwards transcribed by me by means of computer, and that
9 to the best of my ability the foregoing is a true and correct
10 transcript of the proceedings as aforesaid.

11 I further certify that these proceedings was taken at
12 the time and place specified in the foregoing caption.

13 I further certify that I am not a relative, counsel or
14 attorney for either party, or otherwise interested in the
15 outcome of this action.

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Rocky
17 Mount, Virginia on the 15th day of April, 2011.

18 
19

20 CYNTHIA N. STILES
NOTARY PUBLIC

21 My Commission expires December 31, 2014
22

23 Notary Registration Number: 266666
24